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CONTACT REPORT

UTILITY's New Year's Party

CATIDE Compound

21 January 1966, 1900 - 2245 hours

- 1. The annual CATIDE New Year's party for the MEB liaison staff took place in House 37 of the CATIDE Compound on 21 January. It was quite a pleasant affair. The reception rooms were well set up, the dinner was catered by a very good restaurant, and the wines and champagne were first rate. CATIDE entertainment has tended to get a little flossier in recent years and I attribute this to the efforts of
- 2. Everybody of any consequence in CATIDE was present at the party; I assume UTILITY ordered a full turnout. On our side, the number of participants was much smaller, due to E Is and E I's trips to the USA and the absence of a few other MLB staffers.
- 3. UTILITY made a warm little speech at the start of the evening and obviously tried to be a good host. sought me out for a short conversation about the SDECE scandal in Paris, but there was so much noise in the reception room that I couldn't follow his words very well. Later UTILITY escorted my wife to dinner and talked to her about an hour, mostly about DeGaulle and President Johnson's proposals for changing the American Constitution! UTILITY seems to like to talk to my wife. Afterwards he circulated around and chatted with the other MLB attendees and their Wives.

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- 4. UTILITY's daughter, Maria Theresa, acted as hostess, and I chatted with her for an hour or so. She is an intelligent young woman. She said she works for CATIDE and her husband is studying for his doctorate at the University of Munich in the field of Germanistics. Since this is also my field, we had plenty to talk about. She said her husband would like to come to the USA for a year or so to worksat an American University, and I told her I was well plugged in at the University of Winconsin and would be more than willing to try to help with scholorships, assistantship, etc. if she were interested. She obviously was, but she just as obviously didn't want to ask for help without checking with her father. We will see if she brings up the topic again.
- 5. I regret that we can't get closer to UTILITY's family. He is very close to his children and if we had friendly relations with some of them I think they would serve as a pro-American influence in the family. As things stand now, I suspect that the family atmosphere is a fairly anti-American one, primarily as a result of the Coase. I noted that both UTILITY's daughter and daughter-in-law were quite standoffish when I first got to know them, but warmed up quickly after I talked to them a while. They are both international in their outlook and I believe would be quite friendly to Americans if they knew us better.
- 6. During dinner UTILITY's aide, GEICHENDORF, whispered a message in UTILITY's ear and UTILITY left the room for a short time. I expect that something of interest had just taken place, possibly in connection with the CAVATA publicity campaign against the five KGB officers in Bonn.
- 7. I left the party at 2245. When I took leave I noticed that UTILITY looked quite tired. Despite this, he stayed for another hour until the last American guest had gone.
- 8. All in all I thought the party was a good one. The CATIDERS were on their best behaviour and there was a warm and convivial atmosphere. I think UTILITY went out of his way to be gracious and show that he still wants to work closely with us.

